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SOVIET MACHINE BREAKS FROZEN PEAT FIELDS

During the 1951 season, the Orekhovo Peat Enterprise received three MVM-2 machines manufactured by the Demikhovskiy Machine-Building Plant and intended for use in breaking up the frozen surface of peat fields. Because of their late arrival from the plant, operations could be started only on 28 March with the second and third groups of new standard hydropeat cranes and on 1 April with the first group. One MVM-2 machine was used with each group.

During the period of operations, an area of 7.12 hectares was worked. The characteristics of the deposit and the thickness of the frozen layer as of 15 March are given below.

Group of Cranes	Type of Deposit	Depth of Deposit (m)	Stump Content (%)	Thickness of Frozen Layer (cm)		
				Min	Max	Av
First	Hill Peat	4.93	1.85	25	60	37.5
Second	Intermediate Peat	2.98	2.56	15	51	32.4
Third	Hill Peat	5.92	1.84	15	60	34.4

The following production indexes were obtained during the period of operations.

Machine No	Operations		No of Working Shifts	Shift Productivity		
	Began	Ended		Linear Meters	Hectares	Coeff of Eff
38	31 Mar	11 Apr	22	557	0.084	0.54
36	29 Mar	23 Apr	37	730	0.11	0.65
39	28 Mar	8 Apr	17	620	0.093	0.54
Total			76	Av 650	0.0974	0.584

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As indicated in the above table, the average shift productivity was 650 linear meters instead of the Glavtorf norm of 1,213 linear meters. The Glavtorf norm must be revised to take into consideration the thickness of the frozen layer, the time of the year, and the depth of the snow cover and of the thawed layer. Actually only two shifts succeeded in fulfilling the norm.

The consumption of fuels and lubricants is given below in kilograms.

<u>Machine No</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Kerosene</u>	<u>Avtol (Auto-mobil Oil)</u>	<u>Solidol</u>	<u>Nigrol</u>
38	32	1,821	150	15	30
36	68	5,580	622	25	39
39	30	1,700	134	-	-
Total	130	9,101	906	40	69
Per hectare	18.25	1,275	127	5.6	9.7

The use of the MVM-2 for breaking up frozen ground is tremendously more efficient than blasting methods. Idle periods of the cranes are also notably decreased, as is indicated in the following table.

<u>Crane No</u>	<u>Method of Breaking Frozen Ground</u>	<u>Idle Per 10-20 Apr (hr)</u>	<u>Idle P r 20-30 Apr (hr)</u>	<u>Decrease in Idle Per In Comparison With Crane No 29 (hr)</u>
29	Blasting	40.10	28.10	-
30	Mechanical	34.05	9.45	24.70
35	Mechanical	21.10	5.05	42.05
Total		95.25	42.60	66.75

In operating in a frozen layer more than 30-35 centimeters thick, cases of a backward movement of the MVM-2 have often been observed. The experience of the Nazyia Peat Enterprise indicates that this can be stopped by setting the hook of the device at an angle of 25 degrees.

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